Annual Report 2006/2007

Activities of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

About the Cover Image

"Sunflower" by Sandy Kowalilk
Watercolour on paper, 2003
Sandy Kowalik coordinates the PEIACSW's Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence. In 2006, the Advisory Council recognized her for 5(+) years working with Council.

Prince Edward Island
CANADA

Advisory Council on the Status of Women

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November 2007

Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
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Dear Minister Docherty:

I am pleased to present you with the 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements as well as a summary of Council's activities, publications, and collaborations with government.

Sincerely,

Kirstin Lund, Chairperson

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Chairperson's Message

This past fiscal year, 2006 to 2007, the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women continued to be an active force for collaborative change towards equality for women and families on Prince Edward Island.

Events this year made us aware of how far we have come and how far we have left to go. Early in the year, Council was saddened to hear of the death of our first Chairperson, Beatrice Reeves, who had advocated for change on many issues that are still on Council's agenda today, more than thirty years later.

Late in the year, Canada lost another champion of women's equality, Doris Anderson, who was a bright light for Prince Edward Island women and women across Canada. When Doris Anderson looked at what supports and services were missing for women in Canada, supports such as national subsidized childcare, she traced the lack to women's underrepresentation in decision-making. I am proud that while I have been Council Chairperson, we have been able to put a special emphasis on the need for women in government. I am as convinced as Doris Anderson that things will change more, and faster, when more women stand for and are elected for public office.

We have made progress towards equality since women like Beatrice Reeves and Doris Anderson began the fight, but this year women were called on again to make the case for women's equality in Canada. In the spring, federal changes of priority undermined improvements in accessible quality childcare. In the autumn, the federal government cut spending to programs

essential to equality: to Status of Women Canada's Women's Program and regional support offices; to the Court Challenges program; to literacy; and to housing. Shockingly, work for women's equality was removed from the mandate of Status of Women Canada.

The federal minister responsible for the Status of Women went so far as to say that the federal government believes women in Canada are equal. That statement is staggeringly unbelievable, in a country where women make 62% of men's incomes though they make up 47% of the workforce, where 43% of all children living in poverty live with a lone-parent mother, where women are six times more likely than men to experience a sexual assault, and where women make up 84% of all spousal homicides.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women joined women's organizations across the country in denouncing cuts to equality funding. We were grateful to be joined in questioning the federal cuts by the Hon. Gail Shea, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women for PEI. It is encouraging that our work to collaborate with government let us celebrate a well-informed minister prepared to stand up for Island women.

The Advisory Council made great progress this year towards a "report card" on equality that will allow us to measure progress on women's equality and congratulate government on successes and point to areas for ongoing improvement. The "report card" has come about through several years of Council planning, and we look forward to introducing the report card process during the provincial election that will take place later this year.

Another highlight of Council's work has been the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, which has been gaining

steadily in effectiveness and awareness-raising. Family violence prevention initiatives have expanded from the provincial government, with groups such as the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, into the province's two cities, with Summerside joining Charlottetown this year to promote prevention in our cities. Other municipalities also sponsored the Purple Ribbon Campaign for the first time.

In recognition of the importance of municipal governments, Council developed an educational resource for women, focused on what role local governments can play in advancing women's equality. This was distributed in time for municipal elections.

At the end of the year, the Advisory Council was working with women in the community to facilitate discussion about how to help Transition House Association move into the future as a women-led, community-based organization. Transition House Association is a cherished organization providing support to women and families facing violence province-wide, and we are hopeful that its current organizational review will have positive effects for the organization and the community in the long-term.

The end of the fiscal year finds Council staff settled into a new space, at the Sherwood Business Centre. While this space represents a loss of a shared, accessible downtown meeting room, we know that Council staff will continue to be able to foster partnerships with equality-seeking organizations, provide a listening ear for Island women, and use the new space to continue its mandate educating and advising government and the public on issues of concern to women and their families.

Kirstin Lund, Chairperson

About the Council

Mandate and Meetings

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEI ACSW) is a government-appointed provincial advisory agency made up of nine women who share a vision: respect and equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, or ability.

The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. Over the years, the Council has developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Advisory Council achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both the government and the community. The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. This act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

Roles of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- serves as a community arm to the provincial government
- acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women on PEI

- conducts research on equality concerns and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces, and community consultations to promote equality
- informs the Minister Responsible on the Status of Women about events and issues concerning women's equality
- works collaboratively with community organizations and government systems towards equality for all women
- initiates and participates in projects and events of benefit to Island women
- responds to enquiries from individuals, organizations, and government
- listens to women and validates their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women
- meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

Advisory Council meetings, 2006–07

- 89th meeting: April 18, 2006, Charlottetown, PEI
- 90th meeting: June 28, 2006, Montague, PEI
- 91st meeting: December 1, 2006, Summerside, PEI
- 92nd meeting: March 16, 2007, Charlottetown, PEI

Members

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and senior women.

Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms.

In 2006–07, Council welcomed Executive Council's appointment of Isabelle Christian. Council selected Aleah MacLellan to serve as Treasurer. The Province re-appointed Kirstin Lund as Chairperson and appointed Elaine Rabinowitz as Vice-Chairperson and gave each a second term, to 2008.

At the end of fiscal year, the Advisory Council was waiting for confirmed reappointments of Darcie Pike-Wilkie and Aleah MacLellan, whose first terms ended in February.

Kirstin Lund, Stratford — Chairperson
Council term: January 28, 2003, to January 28, 2008

Kirstin Lund has been a faculty member of UPEI's Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies since 1998, teaching courses in mediation, communication skills, and restorative justice. Since leaving the practice of law in 1996, she has coordinated many projects concerning conflict resolution and woman abuse prevention. More recently, she has coordinated research and project work in support of women's access to maternity and parental benefits and increasing

the number of women in government. She has served on several boards related to advancing the status of women including Women's Network PEI, Transition House Association, and the PEI Crime Prevention Association.

Elaine Rabinowitz, Breadalbane — Vice-Chairperson
Council term: January 28, 2003, to January 28, 2008

Elaine Rabinowitz is a Registered Nurse and works with Community Mental Health in Summerside. She is a founding and current member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence, a member of the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee, and a previous board member of Transition House Association. Elaine also contributed to the board of the PEI Multicultural Association and was active in Home and School and Guiding. She brings to Council her dedicated commitment to an international view of women's issues and a special concern for diversity and immigration issues.

Darcie Pike-Wilkie, Alberton — Member
Council term: February 3, 2004, to February 3, 2007

Early childhood educator Darcie Pike-Wilkie works at the Bloomfield Kindergarten and is an active parent, partner, and community volunteer. She brings to Council her hands-on knowledge of the challenges faced in the early childhood care and education sector ensuring high quality care in rural PEI. She has valuable insights into women's traditional role in caring for children.

Aleah MacLennan, Tyne Valley — Member
Council term: February 3, 2004, to February 3, 2007

Aleah MacLennan is a Staff Nurse at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Tyne Valley. Her experience at the hospital has brought her a strong understanding of women's issues in her community. Aleah is also a strong community volunteer, especially with the Women's Institute. She grew up in a farm family and has strong rural Island values. She shares with Council her perspective as an independent woman in rural PEI.

Sister Norma Gallant, Wellington — Member
Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Norma Gallant is a Francophone woman from the Evangeline area who has been involved in issues related to equality at local, regional, provincial, and national levels for 30 years. She has also conducted workshops with men to help them value the notion of equality. She has been involved with issues such as teen dating workshops; public awareness on elder abuse; equality for women and men in church ministries in the French sector; training of coaches and trainers about abuse and harassment in sports; assistance for women to prepare Victim Impact Statements; self-esteem workshops; and training in the Language of the Gifts of Character. She serves on the PEI Justice Options Committee and its Steering Group. Norma works at the Evangeline Community Consultative Group, especially on crime prevention work.

Roseanne Sark, Summerside — Member
Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Roseanne Sark, a member of the Lennox Island First Nation, was recently hired as Mi'kmaq Confederacy (MCPEI) Community Liaison Officer for Lennox Island First Nation. Roseanne is a mother of two. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology-Anthropology with a minor in History from Carleton University and is also certified with Reality Therapy. She has worked in the field of family violence prevention, research, recreation, cultural promotion and facilitation for various organizations including the Native Women's Association of Canada, Lennox Island First Nation, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Human Resources Development Canada and the Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre. Over the years Roseanne has been part of numerous volunteer committees and executive boards.

Catherine McAleer, Morell — Member
Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Catherine McAleer of Morell is a lone parent with four teenagers, aged 19, 18, 17, and 15. Her paid work is with Employment Pathways in Souris, where she helps people determine both career and life paths. Through training, she helps them develop work skills and life skills, including how to deal with and get over barriers. Catherine has achieved a BA, a BEd, and a Masters in Counselling. She is a strong advocate for women.

Sadie MacKenzie, Montague — Member
Council term: July 13, 2005, to July 13, 2008

Sadie MacKenzie of Montague worked in a nursing home for 22 years as a nursing attendant and activities coordinator. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and spent a term on Montague Town Council. She has three grown children. She currently works with the PEI Liquor Control Commission. She brings to Council her insight into the special challenges of women in abusive relationships in small Island communities and women in government in rural municipalities.

Isabelle Christian, Stratford — Member
Council term: May 16, 2006, to May 16, 2009

Isabelle Christian of Stratford brings to Council her extensive experience as an educator in the school system and in adult learning and development, as well as a deep concern for the quality of women's lives. In 1996, Isabelle led the establishment of a Management Development Program for Women at the University of Prince Edward Island. Her work at UPEI has contributed to the establishment of the Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities, a learning event aimed at making connections between determinants of health and root causes of crime. Isabelle and her husband Gerard reside in Stratford. They have three grown children.

Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time staff members in 2006–07. For many years now, the Council hires one additional staff member, Sandy Kowalik, on contract for project coordination and to cover leaves.

After the Council reviewed and updated hiring and personnel policies, with external advice developed in the previous year by consultant Julie Devon Dodd, Lisa Murphy (Director) and Jane Ledwell (Researcher/Policy Analyst), who were both filling leaves of absence, were made permanent. This decision was made based on the length of their service in "acting" positions at the time of their predecessors' resignations.

In September 2006, Jane Ledwell began a one-year maternity and parental leave, with full salary top-up from the Advisory Council, including a partial subsidy to Council from the Province through Min. Gail Shea. Jane and her partner, Stephen MacInnis, welcomed Anna Sophia Ledwell MacInnis into the world September 28, 2006.

Council staff was moved unexpectedly to new offices at the Sherwood Business Centre in 2006. This required a great deal of time and energy and meant loss of shared meeting space.

Lisa Murphy, Director

Lisa joined Council staff in May 1990. She resigned as Director in May 2000 to travel with her family and was asked to return to the directorship in May 2004.

Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst

Jane Ledwell worked on contract for Council from 2000 to 2001. She joined full-time staff to fill duties of researcher/policy analyst (combined with duties of communications coordinator) beginning June 2004.

Becky Tramley, Administrative Assistant

Becky joined Council in October 1986 and works part-time. She celebrated 20 years with the Advisory Council in 2006.

Sandy Kowalik

Sandy works on a contract basis at the Council as project support and Purple Ribbon Campaign coordinator. She also worked part-time for Council during Jane's parental leave in 2006 and 2007.

Staff Development

- Council revised hiring policies (April 18) and reviewed other personnel policy, with a view to ensuring fair and equitable practices. Council consulted reports previously submitted by consultant Julie Devon Dodd, who remained available for advice throughout decision-making.
- Council reviewed staff job overviews, prepared by the Director (April 18).
- Council Director conducted a scan of other provincial and territorial Advisory Councils' staffing and structure, for comparative purposes.
- Staff meetings and planning sessions took place at least bi-monthly throughout the year. Staff training opportunities focused on media relations.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Manitoba. The Quebec council receives all materials and invitations to participate in meetings. The Coalition is usually co-chaired by two provincial/territorial Councils. In 2006, the PEI Advisory Council took on chairing the Coalition.

List of Major Activities, 2006–07

- Kirstin Lund and Lisa Murphy represented Council at a meeting of the national coalition in Ottawa (December 9 to 13). Sessions included the following:
    - sharing of innovative practices with other Advisory Councils.
    - a national rally against cuts to the Women's Program, Court Challenges program, and literacy, at the Supreme Court of Canada.
    - a reception at Parliament Hill.
    - a meeting with Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy.
- The PEI Advisory Council coordinated, drafted, and published fact sheets and press releases on cuts to women's equality on behalf of the national coalition.

Policy and Research

Council Planning

During its 2003–04 fiscal year, the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women formalized a Council Planning process with the leadership and facilitation of Chairperson Kirstin Lund. This work continued in 2006–07. The goal of Council Planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that it looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council Planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process.

Objectives Set by Council (2003 Meetings)

- To ensure government accountability to PEI women
- To better influence government policy and services
- To bring the voices of PEI women to our policy work
- To improve collaboration and communication with government
- To raise public awareness about women's equality issues

Progress on Council Planning, 2006–07

- *April 18*: Council discussed the nuts and bolts of how to conduct follow-up with government through a "report card" process.
- *June 28*: Kirstin facilitated a discussion about how Council could work together to plan meaningful and significant actions. Council members shared their interests and agreed an annual Council Planning Day was needed, and that funding for this day should be requested of government as a high priority. Council agreed to devote its fall meeting to Planning, with a facilitator.
- *December 1*: Council welcomed Liz Grimmett as a facilitator for its Planning session. Council members reviewed the organization's mandate and set priorities for possible action in four areas: 1) Education of public on equality issues, 2) Public education re: Council and feminism, 3) Building on relationship with Government, and 4) Process for effective advocacy.
- *March 16*: Council reviewed the notes from Planning and also draft materials regarding the Report Card. They identified priority areas for the Report Card.
- *Ongoing Council Development and Education:* Council continued an initiative of scheduling time at Council's meetings for opportunities to learn more about feminism and its practice on PEI. Topics included Women and Leadership (Kirstin Lund, April 18); Safe and Healthy First Nations Families and Communities (Roseanne Sark, June 28); Feminisms (Marie Burge of Cooper Institute, March 16); and Taking Stock: Community and Government Working Together for Community Safety and Well-Being (Laurie Ann McCardle and Nishka Smith, March 16).

Report Card Process

Since 2001, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has developed Policy Guides on issues that Council members and other Island women have identified as important to them. Policy Guides are based on current research, including PEI-specific data whenever it is available. As in other parts of its work, the Advisory Council strives to base Policy Guides on feminist analysis, principles, and processes, including consultation and collaboration. Analysis includes looking at diversities among women, including age, social and economic status, ability, and sexual orientation.

Council also makes recommendations to government on issues of ongoing importance to women and families by working in partnership with other women's organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Following from previous years' strategic planning, in 2006–07 the Advisory Council elected to set the priority for the coming months on following up past Policy Guides rather than developing new ones. The tool Council is developing for this follow-up is a "Report Card" on government's progress taking up recommendations related to women's equality in PEI.

Preparing for the "Report Card"

- A proposal for beginning a cycle for following up on policy guides presented to Council on April 18, 2006. This proposal included notes on process, a timeline, sample priority questions, and a sample assessment ("grading") tool.

- Council expressed strong interest in conducting the report card process with ongoing relationship-building with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Opposition office, and others in government to ensure a collaborative spirit.
- Following additional Council Planning with facilitator Liz Grimmett in December, Council staff prepared draft Report Card materials reflecting recommendations from past policy guides and council planning sessions.
- Council identified priority categories for the Report Card by consensus at the March 16 meeting. These areas were as follows:
    - Making equality a priority across government
    - Women in decision-making
    - Family violence prevention
    - Women's economic status
    - Supports for caregiving
    - Access to justice
    - Women's health
    - Acting collaboratively and supporting diversity and inclusion across government and in relationship with the Advisory Council
- Staff compiled a list of recommendations, issues, and actions under each category. Council members ranked these by priority. Staff drafted a Report Card to reflect these priorities and committed to preparing a publication introducing the Report Card for the upcoming election, to serve double-duty as an election resource for women, to raise awareness of current issues of concern to women and their families.

Follow-up and Ongoing Policy Work

Council has made it a high priority to follow up on recommendations made in Policy Guides and to keep on top of developments regarding priority issues. An important aspect of this follow-up is meeting with government to work collaboratively towards implementing recommendations. This includes ongoing work with women's organizations to advocate for policy changes.

In 2006, Council redirected its energy for following-up Policy Guides into developing a Report Card process. Other follow-up is reflected under "Meetings and Correspondence," "Events," and "Partnerships," below.

In 2006, Council initiated an effective "Did You Know?" feature on the ACSW Website and in community events notices to feature quick facts on women's equality from Policy Guides.

List of Past Policy Guides

- Women and Electoral Reform, September 2006
- Maternity and Parental Benefits, September 2004
- Early Childhood Care and Education, June 2003
- Women and Unpaid Work, January 2003
- Women's Health, September 2002
- Family Law, February 2002
- Addiction Services for Women, May 2001

Information and Education

Enquiries and Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to enquiries from individuals, groups, and government on a variety of questions and issues. These range from requests for statistical information to referrals, crisis calls, and requests for advocacy. People make enquiries in person, by telephone, by e-mail, and by correspondence. Requests for information in crisis or advocacy situations are often complex calls from women who have tried to get information or service without success. The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women; however, it offers support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual enquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Enquiries

- Enquiries regarding government agencies, policies, or programs included need for family law legal aid, desire for advocacy on behalf of women on social assistance, privacy and protection of personal information on the Province's website, difficulties with Maintenance Enforcement's ability to collect from

partners living out of the province or country, lenient sentencing for abusers, and government's role in a Transition House Association review.

- Referrals were frequently made to CLIA's Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so.
- General enquiries covered a wide range of topics: domestic violence, the effects of mandatory retirement policies (such as those at UPEI) on women workers, issues with doctors, support for the ACSW position regarding the Douglas Ian Cameron case, workplace sexual harassment, and workplace bullying.
- On a positive note, there were numerous calls from women starting their own businesses; these women were referred to the PEI Business Women's Association, as appropriate.
- Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent.

MEDIA

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to media requests for comment and analysis on issues that affect the lives of women and families. Ordinarily, the approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Director, and the Researcher/Policy Analyst.

List of News Releases, 2006–07

- Artwork to Remain Prominent (April 19)
- Council Saddened by Death of First Chair (May 3)
- Cosmetic Pesticides a Health Risk (May 26)
- Isabelle Christian Joins Council (June 9)
- PEI Women's Groups React to Federal Cuts (October 4)
- ACSW Outraged Over Changes to Federal Women's Program (October 5)
- Recent Cuts Leave Little to Celebrate on 77th Anniversary of Person's Day (October 18)
- Municipal Government Resource Release (October 27)
- 2006 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Is Launched in Summerside (December 1)
- National Coalition Denounces Elimination of Funding (December 15)
- Local Advisory Council Saddened by Death of Doris Anderson (March 5)
- Praise for Response on HPV Vaccine (March 23)

List of Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2006–07

- Letter to the Editor: Support for a Ban on Cosmetic Pesticides (May 1)
- Letter to the Editor: Family-Friendly Legislature Sitting Hours (May 16)
- Guest Opinion: United Nations Advises on Canadian Poverty (June 8)
- Letter to the Editor: Inquiry on Doctor Raises Issues (July 5)
- Guest Opinion: Canadian Women Are Not Equal (October 12)
- Guest Opinion: Adolescence Is Hard Enough Without Facing Violence (December 6)
- Guest Opinion: Change Is Possible in Preventing Violence (February 12)
- Letter to the Editor: Women and Political Influence (February 19)
- Letter to the Editor: Respect for Those in Public Life (March 29)

Interview Requests, 2006–07

- CBC Radio and CBC TV: Comments on Human Rights finding in favour of pregnant woman (June 14); Dr. Douglas Ian Cameron case (various dates); December 6 memorial; date rape issues (January); the dedication of an all-female floor at a local hotel (February); IWD events (March).
- *Edwards Magazine:* Republished "Take the Equality Quiz" from the *Activities Update* (February 2007); Status of Women Councils in Newfoundland and Labrador also requested permission to reprint the "Equality Quiz." (The quiz was also read in the Senate of Canada and picked up by the National Liberal Women's Commission.)
- Quotes on Youth Sexual Health for Women's Network newsletter (April 4)

- Press Conferences such as Mayor of Charlottetown's Press Conference on Family Violence Prevention (May 31); Persons Day Event: You've Come Far Enough, Baby! (October 18); City of Charlottetown Press Conference on Safety and the Environment (October 19); and ALERT anti-poverty event (March 7).

Website

- ACSW staff members independently manage the content of the ACSW Website through InfoPEI, providing up-to-date information about the Council and its activities.
- Staff received additional training on the InfoPEI system April 21.
- Staff reorganized and updated most aspects of the site in May 2006, including posting numerous publications previously unavailable on-line.
- The Advisory Council Website is available at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

Voters' Guide to the Issues

As part of its legislated mandate to inform and educate the public on the status of women in Prince Edward Island, the Advisory Council shares analysis and key questions on issues with voters during provincial and federal elections, referendums, and plebiscites.

In 2006–07, the Advisory Council prepared and distributed a guide to women's equality issues in November 2006 province-wide municipal elections, the first time a guide was prepared with municipalities in mind.

Initiatives to Inform and Educate Voters: Municipal Elections

- Developed, published, and distributed a guide to women's equality in municipalities: *Municipal Government: More than Rules, Rates, and Recreation.*
- Topics covered:
    - Women in Government
    - Safety
    - Recreation
    - Culture
    - Environment
    - Housing
    - Transportation
    - General Issues (services, taxes, and incorporation; also information about voting)

- Council members and staff contributed comments on Women in Local Government, Preventing Family Violence, Celebrating Women through Public Art, Sticking to a Positive Agenda, Welcoming Newcomers, Healthy Environments, Cosmetic Pesticides, Encouraging Women-Friendly Industry, Educating to Encourage Political Engagement, Women and Volunteerism, Province-wide Public Transportation, Collaborating for First Nations Health, and Community Hospitals and Caregivers' Health.
- The Province's translation service provided a French translation of the guide; the French text was made available on-line.
- A press release advised the public of the guide's release on October 27, the guide was made available on-line, and hard copies were included in a mailout to the ACSW mailing list and to municipalities and municipal administrators across the province.
- Mail-out was followed up with communications with municipal administrators and other staff in municipalities across the Province. Several expressed enthusiasm for the ACSW initiative to educate citizens about the valuable role of local governments.

Council Updates

Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered over 700 at the beginning of 2007. They receive Council publications, including occasional *Activities Updates*. The 227 members of the electronic mailing list receive a weekly listing of community events and notices. Becky Tramley maintains the ACSW's mailing lists.

The Advisory Council also strives to regularly sends notes of congratulation to individual women and groups who have achieved great things or made a difference in their communities.

Activities Updates, 2006–07

- *Activities Update*, Spring/Summer 2006
- *Activities Update*, Fall 2006

Mail-outs, 2006–07

- Summer *Activities Update* (July)
- Municipal Elections information (October)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign materials and fall *Activities Update* (November)
- International Women's Day materials (February)

Community Liaison

Meetings and Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council.

Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence on issues of concern.

Selected Meetings, 2006–07

- Meetings with Hon. Gail Shea, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (April 6, June 23, July 27, January 30)
- Meeting with Andrea Simpson, Status of Women Canada (June 21)
- Meetings with Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy (November and March in Charlottetown; Ottawa in December)
- Meetings with Charlottetown and Summerside Mayors and staff, for Family Violence Prevention initiatives.

Selected Correspondence on Issues, 2006–07

- Meetings with Min. Gail Shea are supported by a memorandum outlining issues and presenting analysis for her consideration.

- Memorandum requested by Minister Shea: a guide to articles, studies, and recommendations on caregiving to adults and seniors (June 23)
- Letter of support for work on FASD by Souris group (April)
- Letter providing input on a report on women in municipal government and the provincial report, Municipal Legislative Reform (April 7)
- Letter to Charlottetown City Council calling for a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides (May 1)
- Draft summary report on proportional representation workshop for electoral reform coalition (May 29)
- Letter to the College of Physicians and Surgeons regarding Douglas Ian Cameron case (July 5)
- Letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper supporting resources for women's equality work (July 13)
- Letters to federal, New Brunswick, and PEI health ministers regarding abortion access in NB and its effects for PEI women (July 27)
- Notes and documentation for the Province for its submission regarding CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (July 6, August 23-24)
- Coordination of Lone Parent research consultation with Minister Shea for UPEI School of Nursing researchers (October 25)
- Letter of support for affordable housing, requested by ALERT, to consultants considering uses for the Dominion Building in Charlottetown (March 21)
- Letter to Charlottetown Cosmetic Pesticide Ad Ho Committee calling for a ban (March 21)

Events

Advisory Council members and staff participate in community-led events whenever possible. The Advisory Council's role at events is often to bring a gender and diversity perspective to the event: to share research and perspectives on how the issues being discussed may affect women differently from men or positively or negatively affect diverse groups.

Selected Events, 2006–07

- Changing Face of HIV/AIDS on PEI Workshop and Planning Day (April 3-4)
- Older Women and Abuse Workshop, PEI Seniors' Federation (April 4)
- Presentations to Women and Cities International (Montreal, April 29-31) representing Mayor's Purple Ribbon Task Force
- Women's Campaign School (May 4-6); Kirstin coordinated and hosted event for Coalition of Women in Government; Council staff provided session facilitation (Lisa) and a seminar on communications materials (Jane)
- Interagency Domestic Violence Response training session (May 16)
- Presentation on gender analysis for Voices for Children, Montague
- Power and Sexual Safety Conference (May 26)
- Presentation to World Urban Forum III (Vancouver, June 19-23)
- PEI Federation of Labour Forum: *Charlottetown: Present and Future* (June 20)
- Navigating Anti-Violence Work in Atlantic Canada in a Culturally Sensitive Way (July 13)

- Golf Against Assault fund-raiser
- HRSDC Consultation on Child Care Space Initiative (August 17)
- Meet & Greet, federal Liberal leadership candidate Carolyn Bennett (Aug. 20)
- Media Training event (August 24)
- UPEI Women's Centre Evaluation (November 3)
- THA Organizational Review Consultation (November)
- Women's Festival Retrospective (November 10)
- Presentation by National Parole Board (November 22)
- UPEI student-organized protest of federal funding cuts (November 23)
- Brown-Bag Sound-Off Session, protest of federal funding cuts (December 8)
- National Rally against cuts to Women's Equality, Ottawa (December 10)
- Women's Campaign School Workshop: working with the media (January 13)
- "Room Control, Message Control" CPRS/Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce Workshop (January 23)
- Women's Network PEI Atlantic Parental Benefits workshop (January 24-26)
- Launch of PAC logo, website, and "Speak Up!" Campaign (February 9)
- Greater Summerside Chamber of Commerce Family Violence Prevention Week luncheon (February 14)
- Presentation on Rural Poverty to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry by Catherine McAleer (February 20)
- Taking Stock: Community and Government Working Together for Community Safety and Wellbeing focus group (March 16)
- "It's All About People" Community Leadership workshops (March 14, 27, 30)
- Meetings with concerned THA members (March 15, 30)

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships involve commitment to participate in the work of coalitions, task forces, research projects, and other community or collectively led activities. Council's policy development process relies on collaboration with organizations that are leading change on issues important to women and families. Participating actively as partners on projects is an important way that the Advisory Council contributes to other community groups' ability to do their work: the Advisory Council has a responsibility to help press recommendations forward over the longer term for groups that have short-term or project-based funding.

List of Partnerships

- AIDS PEI Changing Face of AIDS Advisory Committee
- Circle of Caring for Children Living in Situations of Child Abuse
- Circle of Safety project (facilitated by Kirstin Lund to create safety and support around a survivor of abuse)
- City of Summerside Safe City Committee
- Date Rape Drug Awareness Committee (PEI Liquor Control Commission)
- Electoral Reform advocacy committee
- Female Reintegration Committee
- Justice Options for Women Who Are Victims of Violence
- LEAF National and LEAF PEI (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund)

- Make Poverty History
- Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention
- Peace Begins at Home Campaign (Summerside)
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government
- PEI Public Transit Coalition
- PEI Women's Coalition: Social Justice and Family Legal Aid for Women and Children project
- PEI Working Group for a Livable Income
- Predatory/Date Rape Drug Committee
- Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, PAC Admin Group, and Family Violence Prevention Week Organizing Committee
- Social Economy Research Group
- Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
- Together in Courage Committee (for International Women's Day)
- Transformative Parenting Project
- Transition House Association
- Victim Services Advisory Committee
- Women's Be Creative Group
- Women's Network PEI Atlantic Parental Benefits Advisory Committee
- Women's Network PEI AEEW (Addressing Economic Equality for Women)
- Women's Network PEI Youth Sexual Health Caucus

Leadership in Annual Events

Persons Day

October 18 each year recognizes the date that women in Canada were first acknowledged as "persons" under the law in 1929, after the efforts of pioneering women. Being declared "persons" made women eligible for Senate appointments and other legal rights.

Highlights from Persons Day, 2006

- With other women's organizations, the ACSW helped coordinate a press conference to mark Persons Day on October 18, 2006 in Charlottetown. The event, "You've come far enough, baby!" addressed the state of women's equality in Canada in light of cuts by the federal government to Status of Women Canada Women's Program, literacy, and Court Challenges.
- Speakers at the event were Women's Network PEI, East Prince Women's Information Centre, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Les femmes acadiennes and francophones de l'Ile-du-Prince-Edouard, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Aboriginal Women's Association, and LEAF PEI.
- A press release, "Recent Cuts Leave Little to Celebrate on 77th Anniversary of Person's Day," went out under the co-signatures of Michelle Harris-Genge, WNPEI; Andy Lou Somers, EPWIC; Marilyn Sark, AWA; Kelly Robinson, Rape Crisis; and Kirstin Lund, PEIACSW.

Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in the effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with local facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. In 2006, the Advisory Council also organized a December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.

The Council's 15th Purple Ribbon Campaign was supported by the City of Charlottetown and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2006

- Theme for the year: The Violence Teen Girls Face.
- Highlighted Statistics: 1,438 women with 611 children and youth received support services across PEI in 2006. Transition House Association and Outreach Services received over 17,000 calls for information and service.
- Number of ribbons/cards distributed: 30,000 French and English.
- Publications: Purple Ribbon information cards with fact sheet inserts; also available: information sheets with the history of the Purple Ribbon Campaign. These Campaign publications were all available in English and French.

- The Campaign was launched officially in Summerside on December 1, with a press release ("2006 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Is Launched in Summerside") and coverage in the *Guardian* and *Journal-Pioneer*. The location reflected City of Summerside family violence prevention initiatives.
- Financial contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Province of PEI, Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, City of Charlottetown, Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown, Town of Stratford, PEI Teachers' Federation, Town of Montague, Town of Souris, Town of Kensington, and PEI Federation of Labour.
- The Campaign received 6,000 Canada maple leaf pins through the efforts of Canadian Heritage, Island MPs, and Senator Catherine Callbeck.
- Fundraising among unions, community service organizations, and larger municipalities raised awareness and helped fund honoraria and volunteer appreciation gifts.
- Lisa Murphy's graphic designs on behalf of the Purple Ribbon Campaign, PAC, and municipal family violence prevention initiatives have been very much valued and her various designs have been used for logos, bumper stickers, websites, and placemats that all raise awareness of family violence prevention.
- Staff at Quilting Bee and More in Charlottetown volunteered countless hours by cutting thousands of lengths of ribbon in preparation for the Campaign.
- The Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee was held at Beanz Café and Espresso Bar in Charlottetown (November 2). Beanz donated the space and offered coffee free of charge.

- Gwyn Davies, outreach worker for Family Violence Prevention Eastern PEI, took information and ribbons to junior and senior high school students in King's County. Colette Arsenault, of l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones, distributed to the French schools. Numerous school guidance counsellors organized pinning, distribution, and memorial services with their students using Purple Ribbon materials.
- This year, Women's Institute groups across PEI pinned over 6,000 ribbons.
- "Adolescence Is Hard Enough Without Facing Violence" was published as a guest opinion in the *Guardian* (December 6)
- The Advisory Council coordinated the Memorial Service planning committee for the Charlottetown December 6 service at Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre of the Arts, with help from the Interministerial Women's Secretariat and Transition House Association. Memorials also took place in Summerside, O'Leary, UPEI, and several schools across the Island.
- Memorial services were featured on CBC Television locally and nationally and on CBC Radio's *MainStreet*.
- The Charlottetown service recognized the women murdered in Montreal in 1989, and also the women who have been murdered in PEI in the years since. Advisory Council Chairperson Kirstin Lund and Premier's Action Committee Chairperson Marion Reid co-emceed the event. ACSW member Roseanne Sark opened the service with a Mi'kmaq prayer. In keeping with the focus of the Purple Ribbon Campaign on teen girls, several candle-lighters this year were women with their children.

International Women's Day

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8 each year. Events on International Women's Day and throughout the week surrounding it recognize the ongoing struggle of women for equity, locally and globally. Often, International Women's Day events and education focus on women's equality in the workplace, since IWD's roots are in the labour movement. For IWD 2007, Council joined with other grassroots organizations to form the Together in Courage Committee, which coordinated events and communications to honour female labour leaders.

Highlights from International Women's Day, 2007

- ACSW staff participated as co-founders of the "Together in Courage" Committee to carry IWD events and messages forward in the coming years.
- Lisa Murphy created a logo for ongoing use by the committee.
- Council staff assisted in planning and putting on an International Women's Day celebration, "Leaders Among Us," on Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Georgian Room of the Charlottetown Hotel.
- The event celebrated six Island women leaders of the largest labour unions in PEI: Tammy Chaisson, International Union of Operating Engineers; Margaret Duffy, PEI Nurses' Union; Seana Evans-Renaud, PEI Teachers' Federation; Donalda MacDonald, Canadian Union of Public Employees; Mary MacNeil,

Public Service Alliance of Canada; Shelley Ward, Union of Public Sector Employees.

- The celebration included a roundtable conversation among the Island labour leaders and a special guest from Bolivia, CUSO partner and social activist Alejandrina Ibanez. Following the discussion there was a moving awards presentation and a reception.
- Council Director Lisa Murphy emceed the celebration. Council Chairperson Kirstin Lund offered a tribute to Doris Anderson, who had died earlier in the week.
- Council promoted community groups' IWD events on the ACSW Website and electronic mailing list. Community events this year included a presentation by Bolivian activist Alejandrina Ibanez (CUSO), and IWD information booth at UPEI (UPEI Women's Studies), a music fundraiser for the Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre (UPEI Women's Centre), and two luncheons (one by the PEI Federation of Labour; the other by the PEI Business Women's Association).

Bursaries for Women

Each year, the Advisory Council awards three bursaries for post-secondary education. Two of these bursaries go to two women to help them continue their studies at the University of Prince Edward Island and Holland College. The third bursary, named for late Council vice-chairperson Inge Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada.

Bursary Recipients

- University of Prince Edward Island Bursary: Lisa Cooper
- Holland College Bursary: Margaret Wright
- Inge Blackett Bursary: Josephine Abambu

Publications List

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned in this report. These publications are usually available directly from the Advisory Council or (in most cases) on its Website at http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

- Fact Sheet - National Coalition Denounces Cuts and Changes to Status of Women Canada (December 2006) *A brief by the Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women, outlining facts surrounding 2006 federal cuts and changes to Status of Women Canada funding and programming.*
- Municipal Government: More Than Rules, Rates, and Recreation (October 2006) *A guide to women's equality issues in province-wide municipal elections on November 6, 2006.*
    - *Aussi disponible en français en deux parties*: 1) Plus que des routes, des taux d'imposition et le traitement des déchets, 2) Commentaires des membres du Conseil consultatif sur la situation de la femme de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard
- Support for a Ban on Cosmetic Pesticides (May 1, 2006) *A submission to Charlottetown City Council.*

- Comments on the Municipal Legislative Reform Report (April 11, 2006) *A submission to the Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs linking municipal legislative reform and increasing women in government.*
- Rural Poverty in Prince Edward Island: Some Considerations for Island Women (February 20, 2007) *A presentation on rural poverty to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, presented by Catherine McAleer*
- 2006 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence: The Violation of Our Teen Girls (November 2006) *Purple Ribbon information card, with ribbon attached.*
    - *Aussi disponible en français:* La violation de nos adolescentes
- 2006 Purple Ribbon Fact Sheet: The Violence that Teen Girls Face (November 2006) *Supplementary fact sheet for the Purple Ribbon Campaign.*
    - *Aussi disponible en français:* La violence faites aux adolescentes

Financial Statements

AUDITOR GENERAL
CHARLOTTETOWN
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of revenues, expenditures and surplus (deficit) and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Colin Younker, CA
Auditor General

Charlottetown, P.E.I.
June 22, 2007

STATEMENT 1

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

MARCH 31, 2007

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$1,100	$1,457
Accounts receivable		
- Province of PEI	-	1,500
- General	595	1,568
Prepaid expenses	432	1,124
	$2,127	$5,649
LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$6,626	$5,614
Surplus (Deficit)	(4,499)	35
	$2,127	$5,649

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Chairperson: K. A. Lee

Member: Isabelle Chevalier

STATEMENT 2

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND SURPLUS (DEFICIT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

	2007	2006
Revenues		
Provincial appropriation - Note 3	$163,135	$150,200
Program revenue	2,872	2,816
Miscellaneous revenues	-	9
	166,007	153,023
Expenditures		
Administration	2,479	3,421
Bursary	500	500
Conferences	2,296	1,823
Equipment leases - Notes 2(b) and 4	2,564	2,668
Equipment purchases - Note 2(a)	440	2,213
Honoraria	13,440	12,924
Materials and supplies	2,705	3,631
Program expenses	9,903	8,339
Relocation costs	11,344	-
Salaries and benefits	120,409	117,703
Travel - In Province	3,131	2,978
	170,541	164,233
Excess expenditures for the year	(4,534)	(1,211)
Surplus, beginning of year	35	1,246
Surplus (Deficit), end of year	$ (4,499)	$ 35

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

STATEMENT 3

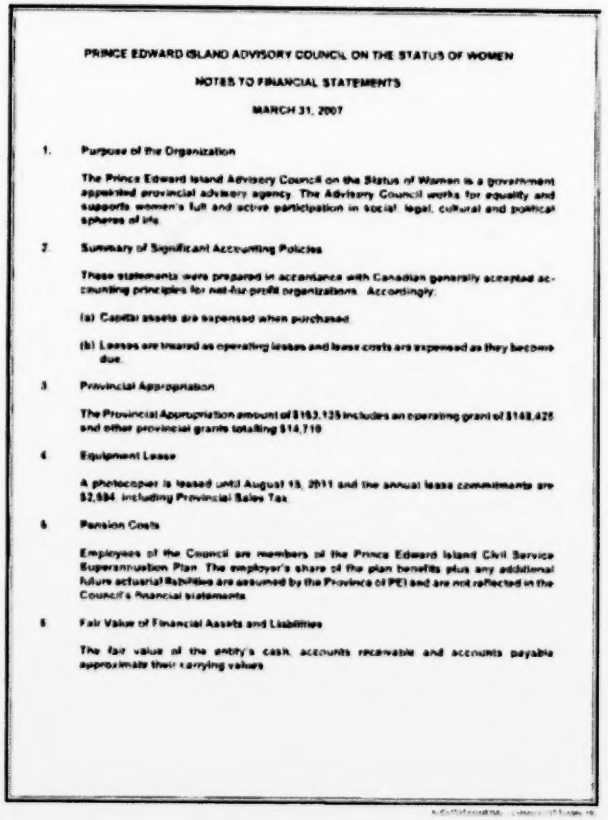
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

	2007	2006
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from Province of PEI	$164,639	$148,700
Cash received from programs	2,872	2,816
Cash received from miscellaneous revenues	-	6
Cash paid for salaries and benefits	(120,489)	(117,422)
Cash paid for materials and services	(47,484)	(38,121)
Net decrease in cash	(387)	(4,021)
Cash, beginning of year	1,487	5,478
Cash, end of year	$ 1,100	$ 1,487

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

1. Purpose of the Organization

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural and political spheres of life.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. Accordingly:

(a) Capital assets are expensed when purchased.

(b) Leases are treated as operating leases and lease costs are expensed as they become due.

3. Provincial Appropriation

The Provincial Appropriation amount of $163,135 includes an operating grant of $148,425 and other provincial grants totalling $14,710.

4. Equipment Lease

A photocopier is leased until August 15, 2011 and the annual lease commitments are $2,884, including Provincial Sales Tax.

5. Pension Costs

Employees of the Council are members of the Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Plan. The employer's share of the plan benefits plus any additional future actuarial liabilities are assumed by the Province of PEI and are not reflected in the Council's financial statements.

6. Fair Value of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The fair value of the entity's cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their carrying values.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of
WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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